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REMARKS

The undersigned attorney acknowledge with appreciation the telephone interview with Examiner. During the interview, various proposed amendments to the application were discussed.

In the specification, Applicants have amended the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 12 and ending at line 19 to conform to the drawings, especially Figures 10, 11A and 11B. Specifically, it is clearly evident from Figures 10, 11A and 11B that the arcuate outer surface 34 of the screw head is bulbous. That is, the arcuate outer surface 34 is not only curved about the longitudinal axis of the screw 31 or 32, but also has a curved profile when viewed from the side of the screws. No new matter was therefore added by the amendment.

Claims 1-3 and 5-74 are pending, of which claims 9, 10, 15, 23-36, 39 and 43-69 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 40 and 70-74 have been allowed. Claims 2, 8 and 38 have been objected to but deemed to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 3-7, 11-14, 16-22, 37, 41 and 42 have been rejected. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 37 and 41 and respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Objections to the Specification

The specification has been objected to because Examiner did not consider it to contain any description of the subject matter claimed in claim 5. Applicants wish to point out that the subject matter in question, a ring of contact between the head of the fastener and the fastener-receiving aperture, is disclosed in the specification at least on page 9 at lines 13-14 and 16-21. The objection should therefore be withdrawn.

Informalities in the Claims

Claim 5 has been objected to for its dependency on a canceled claim. Claim 5 has been amended to be dependent on pending claim 1. The objection has therefore been overcome.

Claim Rejections Based on Prior Art

Claims 1, 3-7, 11-14, 16-21, 37, 41 and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lyons* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,413,259). Applicants submit that these claims, as amended, are not anticipated by *Lyons*. Each of the independent claims 1, 37

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and 41 includes the feature that the head of the fastener or screw has "a bulbous outer surface". This feature is not disclosed or suggested in *Lyons*. Claim 1, 3-7, 11-14, 16-21, 37, 41 and 42 are therefore not anticipated by *Lyons*.

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Lyons* in view of *Michelson* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,193,721). Applicant respectfully submit that claim 22, because of its dependency on claim 1, includes the feature that the head of the fastener has "a bulbous outer surface". This feature is not found in either *Lyons* or *Michelson* or any combination thereof. Claim 22 is therefore not obvious in light of the cited references. See, MPEP 2143.03.

Allowable Subject Matter

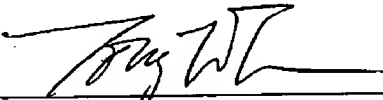
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claim 40 and 70-74. Applicants further acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 8 and 38. Because the applicants believe that the base claims, claims 1 and 37, are allowable, amendment to claims 2, 8 and 38 are not necessary.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:


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